

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants have amended claims 1, 7-12, 14-28, 30-40, and 42. Some amendments have been made to indicate correct dependency and for cosmetic reasons unrelated to patentability. No new matter has been added. Claims 13, 29, and 41 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute any and all pending claims in one or more continuation, continuation-in-part, or divisional applications. Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments and the following comments overcome the objections and rejections set forth in the March 26, 2003 Office Action.

I. THE INVENTION

The present invention is a novel reflective imaging system that allows a reflective device, e.g., a mirror, to be strategically placed in a variety of locations and positions. Therefore, many locations within a room, or any other area, may be viewed by adjusting the location and position of the reflective device.

Specifically, the present invention provides a mounting means, an arm, and a backing means that couples to the reflective device. The arm adjustably connects (via joints such as ball joints, swivel joints, etc.) the mounting means and backing means such that the reflective device can assume various

positions. Specifically, adjusting the system at the joints provides numerous viewing angles such that numerous locations can be viewed via the reflective device from a single spot.

In an alternative embodiment, the arm is replaced with an L-shaped bracket that can swivel within a bore. Furthermore, the multiple bores are provided in the mounting means to allow the mirror to be placed in various positions. In another alternative embodiment, the arm comprises an additional joint such that the reflective device can be positioned with even more versatility.

II. THE EXAMINER'S OBJECTIONS

A. DRAWINGS

The Examiner objected to FIG. 2 because "00" was listed instead of "200."

B. SPECIFICATION

The Examiner objected to the Abstract "because of the use of the word 'invention' ... See MPEP § 608.01(b)." (March 26, 2003 Office Action, p. 2).

C. CLAIMS

The Examiner objected to the claims for being improperly numbered and indicated that misnumbered claims 10-41 have been renumbered 12-42.

III. THE EXAMINER'S REJECTIONS

A. 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 11-18, 22, 24, 25, 27-32, 36, and 39-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Whitcomb U.S. Patent No. 6,244,718 B1 (hereinafter referred to as "Whitcomb"). The Examiner opined that Whitcomb contains a mirror mounting means and backing means, wherein the mirror may be planar or convex. Also, the Examiner contended that the "mounting and backing means could be a ball and socket." (March 26, 2003 Office Action, p. 4).

B. 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 3-5, 7, 10, 19-21, 23, 26, 33-35, 37, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitcomb. The Examiner argued that:

"Whitcomb accepts any type of fastening or securing means ... As to the mirror per se, the use of a mirror not planar or convex is also considered as an obvious matter of engineering choice." (March 26, 2003 Office Action, p. 4).

V. THE EXAMINER'S OBJECTIONS AND REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

A. DRAWINGS

The Examiner objected to FIG. 2 because "00" was listed instead of "200." Applicants have amended FIG. 2 accordingly.

B. SPECIFICATION

The Examiner objected to the Abstract "because of the use of the word 'invention' ... See MPEP § 608.01(b)." (March 26, 2003 Office Action, p. 2). In response thereto, Applicants have amended to the Abstract to eliminate the use of the word "invention."

C. CLAIMS

The Examiner objected to the claims for being improperly numbered and indicated that misnumbered claims 10-41 have been renumbered 12-42. Accordingly, the numbering of the claims in the foregoing amendments has been corrected.

D. 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 11-18, 22, 24, 25, 27-32, 36, and 39-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Whitcomb. Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to newly amended independent claims 1, 17, and 31. Therein, Applicants have added the limitation of an arm that connects to the mounting means and to the backing means at each end. Also, the arm comprises a joint between these ends. Support for such matter is provided in FIG. 3 and the corresponding specification. Nowhere in Whitcomb is such a jointed arm described or depicted. Therefore, independent claims 1, 17, and 31, along with any dependent claims thereof, cannot be anticipated by Whitcomb.

B. 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

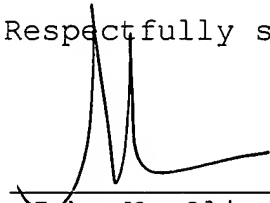
The Examiner rejected claims 3-5, 7, 10, 19-21, 23, 26, 33-35, 37, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitcomb. Once again, Applicants direct the Examiner's
5 attention to newly amended independent claims 1, 17, and 31. As described above, all claims now include a jointed arm for connecting the mounting means and the backing means, which is not taught or suggested by Whitcomb. In light of this new claim limitation of a jointed arm, the matter claimed in claims 3-5,
10 7, 10, 19-21, 23, 26, 33-35, 37, and 38 is clearly not obvious in view of Whitcomb, which does not even hint at such a limitation or its resulting functionality. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-5, 7, 10, 19-21, 23, 26, 33-35, 37, and 38 are patentable over Whitcomb.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the specification, drawings, and all pending claims represent a patentable contribution to the art and are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action
5 is accordingly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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